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APD 500
Natural Resources Section

c/o Postmaster
San Francisco, Calif.
6 March 1951

PERSONAL
Dr. Warren Weaver
Rockefeller Foundation
New York 20, New York

Dear Dr. Weaver:

The other night Dr. Harold Coolidge (who was briefly in Tokyo) and I had a long talk about the opportunities for scientific research in Japan. I told him about the vast amount of material in our files and of detailed information which could be obtained from Japanese sources. I explained further that we have several thoroughly qualified scientists who are scheduled to return to the United States by July because of reduction in budget but who might be willing to remain in Japan for some time to work with the Japanese on joint research projects.

One example will indicate the situation. Dr. Charles Park, Dean of the School of Mineral Sciences, Stanford University, is in Japan for 90 days helping us with problems related to the strategic commodity, manganese. He has visited several mines and conferred with many Japanese scientists and engineers. To his surprise, he has found that little fundamental research has been done by the Japanese on this vital resource. He also found a great deal of data in the form of notes and unpublished maps in the files of the Natural Resources Section. Finally, he learned that the one member of this Section who might be willing to supervise a joint Japanese-American research project if funds were available is scheduled to return to the United States in July.

Similarly in the domain of agriculture, fisheries and forestry equally pressing problems await study. Much unpublished information has been accumulated and many friendly contacts have been made and maintained with Japanese specialists in these as well as in geological circles. These contacts may be lost, at least temporarily, and much accumulated data may be dissipated, unless immediate action is taken to keep selected experts in Japan.

Some of us feel that the more enlightened agencies and private foundations should be cognizant of the materials which we have accumulated in our files. We believe that several agencies should be interested in making this material available to scholars, governmental agencies, and universities. I am therefore sending you this letter and I am informing other organizations of the situation. I shall be pleased to answer any questions that may come to mind.

Sincerely yours,

See note above
HUBERT G. SCHENCK
Lt Col CE

Chief, Natural Resources Section

Army review(s) completed.

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